

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-05

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UNCLAS HONG KONG 7371

PASS SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR
SUBJECT: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED ABROAD

REF: STATE 147704

1. LEGAL COUNSEL OF "PUBLIC DEFENDER" TYPE READILY AVAILABLE
HONG KONG TO PRISONERS, INCLUDING U.S. NATIONALS, UNABLE
FUND PRIVATE COUNSEL.

2. SUCH REPRESENTATION PROVIDED MOST CIVIL AND CRIMINAL
CASES HEARD MAGISTRATE COURTS AND SUPREME COURT THROUGH
HKG LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT. DEFENDANT PRIVILEGED SELECT
COUNSEL FROM LIST OF SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS MAINTAINED
BY HKG ACCORDING TO SPECIALTY. SUCH ASSISTANCE HOWEVER
NOT AVAILABLE IN MAGISTRATE COURTS (WHICH HANDLE ONLY
MINOR OFFENCES) OWING TO VAST NUMBER CASES AND COST INVOLVED.

3. WE ARE OF OPINION QUALITY PUBLIC FUNDED LEGAL AID IS
HIGH. LISTS OF SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS INCLUDE SOME
OF THE LEADING LAW PRACTITIONERS HONG KONG. POST
IS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY
DIRECTOR LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT AND WE ARE IMPRESSED
WITH THEIR COMPETENCE AND DEDICATION. ONE EXAMPLE
IS THEIR EFFORT BEHALF NORMAN DAVID MAYER (STATE
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039627) CONVICTED OF TRAFFICKING IN MARIJUANA.
MAYER HAS APPEALED SENTENCE AND LEGAL AID HAS
ASSIGNED BROOK BERNACCHI, Q.C., ONE OF HONG KONG'S
LEADING LEGAL PERSONAGES TO HEAD UP DEFENSE TEAM.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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